

# **DRINKING WATER ADVISORY WORK GROUP**

## **MEETING Summary - September 26, 2000**

### **Welcome and Introduction - Charles Maddox**

### **State Revolving Fund Update - Bruce Crawford**

- Year 2000 funding cycle is over
- 2001 IEP had comments, revisions done
- Will start inviting entities to ask for assistance November 1
- Working with TNRCC on revisions to 2002 IEP
- Preparing news release to send out for marketing purposes, targeting Nov. 1

### **Source Water Assessment & Protection - Brad Cross**

- Continuing to develop assessment process
- Deadline for 17,000+ assessments is May 2003
- Technical issues being ironed out
- TRWA will help implement protection activities through contract
- Mason Miller added to the SWAP team
- SWAP working with Bexar Met to develop region-wide SWAP program - Medina River intake
- National Source Water Strategy (Handout #1)
- Working with EPA nationally and regionally
- EPA purpose is to lay out broad focus to address vision and develop SWAP measures
- Document has gaps between Ground Water and PWS rules
- Contact Brad Cross at (512)239-4753 for copy of entire document
- Send comments to Betsy Henry at email address - [henry.betsy@epa.gov](mailto:henry.betsy@epa.gov)

## **Drought Activities - Mike Lannen**

- 281 community water systems on the "Watch" list (Handout #2)
- City of Throckmorton still top priority (<90 day supply)
  - @ Currently pumping 80,000 gallons per day
  - @ Need 120,000 gallons per day
- Critical Facilities Team (CFT) needs information on systems that have released restrictions
- Some systems have been rationing since last year
- Historical Data Map (Handout #3)
  - @ Number of systems still increasing
  - @ Hopefully will level off in October
  - @ Number of public water systems impacted by drought usually declines by late summer/early fall
- Critical Facilities Team will start education program before next drought starts
- Drought Contingency Plans will help manage drought conditions in the future
- TNRCC needs info on how Drought Contingency Plans are working
- CFT will be sending out questionnaires on how effective DCPs have been
- Call Mike Lannen at (512)239-6054 for any drought questions

## **Proposed EPA Groundwater Rule & Comments - Tony Bennett**

- Groundwater Rule has been discussed by national work groups
- Rule has some key components that need to be in sync with SWAP and coliform rules
- Microbial safety is most important health issue
- Goal of GW rule is to implement microbial safety requirements for groundwater sources
- Disinfection requirements are standard in Texas

- Excessive monitoring requirements tied up in GW rule
- Paperwork associated with monitoring requirements seems excessive just because of the chance of fecal impact
- EPA feels SWAP assessments should be used without lab verification of fecal contamination
- Comments will be included in mailout of meeting summary

### **Cross-Connection Control - Byron Hardin**

- Heads Cross-Connection Control Committee, charged with overseeing state's cross-connection control program
- Will study impact of 290 rule changes on systems
- Resigning as chairman due to increased work load at new position

### **Proposed Arsenic Rule - Tony Bennett**

- Proposed standard of 5ug/L instead of current MCL of 50ug/L
- Arsenic rule make monitoring of arsenic consistent with monitoring of other heavy metals
- Arsenic will now be required to be monitored at each entry point - Texas rules already require that
- Health information for arsenic reviewed by the National Science Academy
- Report says that arsenic may not have a linear dose response
- EPA still looks at arsenic in a linear fashion
- All Maximum Contaminant Level Goals for carcinogens set at 0
- Treatment techniques can treat arsenic contaminated water and get it to 5ug/L or less
- EPA taking comments on 3,10, and 20 ug/L
- Based on uncertainty of the science and huge cost for treatment, TNRCC did not support 3, 5, or 10
- Error factor in private labs too great to justify 3ug/L
- Based on number of systems in violation and allowing for future data to support reductions, TNRCC recommended 20 ug/L

- Comments went out 9/20, will send copy w/DWAWG summary
- Arsenic is naturally occurring - 12th most common element in earth's crust
- Most data on arsenic comes from Taiwan and India - both countries have high levels
- Can always reevaluate reduction later if needed
- Rule will be finalized after EPA responds to comments, maybe April or May

## **Chapter 290 Rule Changes - Surface Water Treatment Rule - Jack Schulze**

- Published in Texas Register in August
- Copy of rules and regulations will be forwarded to DWAWG mailing list
- Two areas with changes
  - @ Total Organic Carbons (TOC) monitoring requirements
  - @ Will begin meeting with work group
  - @ Want to get a 2 year extension for utility as long as it did not pose an immediate public threat
  - @ Variance & exemption require public notice requirement
  - @ Extensions don't require public notice, but only last 2 years
  - @ EPA not receptive to variances or exemptions for TOC
  - @ TNRCC developing guidelines for systems that want TOC exemptions
  - @ Primacy battle likely to occur in 2-3 years
  - @ Rules effective 9/20, will take a few months to train field staff
  - @ Filter Capacity
  - @ Plant has to meet design capacity
  - @ Tried to make sure systems didn't overload one filter while another one was being backwashed
  - @ Work group will work on plans for small systems

@ Work group will be similar to the Interim Enhanced Work Group, but with more representation from small systems

@ Will be put together in November or December after the EPA promulgates the rule (end of year)

### **Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring - Ron Bearden**

- States entering into partnerships with EPA to build database
- Data will be collected to determine which unregulated constituents need to be regulated
- SOC5, SOC3 VOC and Perchlorates are four types of samples that need to be collected
- Public Drinking Water will be sending out letters letting systems know that they will have UCMR monitoring at each point
- 250-300 systems in large system category
- About 100 systems will be monitored in first 3 years of UCMR sampling
- Texas has 71 small systems monitored for UCMR
- 6,000 UCMR samples for next year
- Quarterly samples must be taken at each entry point
- Large systems pay their own sampling fees, EPA pays costs for small system
- Wherever possible, VOC samples will include all usual constituents so additional samples don't have to be taken
- TNRCC will try to let systems know in advance for budgeting purposes

### **Capacity Development Strategy - Doug Holcomb**

- TNRCC's strategy approved by EPA
- Involves assisting existing and new systems to have sufficient Financial, Technical and Managerial capabilities
- Comments for DWSRF Interim final rules due by October 6
- TNRCC rules out this week or next
- Comments said systems could use the State Revolving Funds to provide additional sources

### **Chapter 293 Rules Update - Doug Holcomb**

- Districts rule revisions effective 9/14/2000
- Rules will expedite bond application and review process
- New amendments (Handout #4)

### **Chapter 291 & Submetering Rules Update**

- New Submetering rules effective 9/27/2000
- Different allocation methods may be used (Handout #5)

### **Technical Assistance, Sampling & Source Water Protection Contracts Update - Charles Maddox**

- Sampling Contract
  - @ TRWA will be starting soon
  - @ Some quarterly samples will be missed due to time element
- Source Water Protection
  - @ Partners with TRWA
- Technical Assistance Contract
  - @ Direct Referrals
  - @ Help with FMT assessments and consolidation
  - @ Should be running by end of October

### **Activities for Source Water Assessment and Protection - Brad Cross**

- Evaluations of source
- Focusing on waterbodies with atrazine
- Field work locates PSOC and works using GIS to display
- Recommendations on BMPs

### **Operator Certification Rules - Jane Montgomery**

- Several written and verbal comments
- Rule should be in operation by end of May
- Having trouble finding perpetual operators
- TRWA and TWUA will publish list of those found
- Cards for changeover will be mailed in a few weeks
- A suggestion was made that field inspectors could check the operator's certification during an inspection

#### **Next Meeting/Location/Topics**

- Next meeting will be January 9, 2001
- Location will be announced later
- Suggested topics for next meeting are: Operator Certification Rules, Radionucleides, Rule Status Updates on radon, arsenic and Ground Water. Also Legislative Actions for upcoming session